

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

How much can you lift or carry on your back? Could you manage if you were your only source of transportation? You may be surprised to know that in the tiny kingdom of Nepal people are the main source of transportation. Early each morning men, women, and children carry their wares from the countryside to cities like Katmandu. There they trade and sell their goods in the open market place.

One man can walk as far as 20 miles while he carries as much as 160 pounds on his back. How does he do it? He has lots of practice and becomes used to it. He either puts a pole across his shoulders with big bundles on each end, or he has a basket which he ties to himself with wide bands like a harness. Either way, down the narrow roads before day break, long processions can be seen each day. Then, in the evening back to the country the Nepalese go with baskets empty or with goods they have exchanged.

Doctors say we need exercise to keep healthy. Where do you think people could manage better if they were their only source of transportation - in a city like Katmandu or a city in the United States?



1. The main idea in this story is:
 - (a) selling goods (b) transportation
 - (c) good health (d) market places
2. People bring their wares to the city:
 - (a) in the evening
 - (b) at night
 - (c) in the morning
 - (d) at noon
3. Men can carry heavy loads because they:
 - (a) have wide shoulders
 - (b) are used to it
 - (c) are strong
 - (d) are large men
4. Katmandu is a:
 - (a) city
 - (b) countryside
 - (c) small village
 - (d) narrow road
5. Before day break:
 - (a) the market place is ready
 - (b) long processions can be seen
 - (c) men carry home empty baskets
 - (d) selling and trading has started
6. In this story processions are:
 - (a) forward movements
 - (b) moving along in an orderly way
 - (c) exciting happenings
 - (d) events that take place
7. Why do men use poles or baskets with harnesses to help carry their wares?
 - (a) the men are weak
 - (b) to balance the weight
 - (c) to move faster
 - (d) the roads are narrow
8. Why are there narrow roads in Nepal?
 - (a) cars are small
 - (b) they are foot paths
 - (c) they are seldom used
 - (d) one-way traffic only